



Conservation chronicle

Chairman's Update

By Rob Bohmann

I hope that all of you are having a great summer and are starting to look forward to all the great recreational opportunities fall in Wisconsin has to offer. The salmon fishing has been outstanding out of the Racine harbor this year. Chinook sizes are down, but anglers are reporting good success on all species. Salmon-a-Rama started on the 14th of July this year, and I was set to spend nine straight days on the water. My wife tells me that this will be her vacation as well... I'm still trying to figure that one out. The perch fishing was very good for the first week of the season, but has since slowed down significantly. The prevailing west winds driving the warmer water out seemed to have driven the perch out as well.

I was also able to find time to make a few trips up to Green Bay for walleyes, and was lucky enough to limit out every trip. I'm hoping to make a few more trips up there, and with a little luck, the freezer will be full of fillets and the shelves will be full of canned salmon by the end of July.

I'm also hoping to find a weekend to head up to Rhinelander and fish for muskies with Roger Sabota from Oneida County. At the 2011 annual convention in Wausau I won a guided trip with Roger and invited Scott Gunderson to join me. Even though the muskies didn't cooperate, we still had a great time. If you've never fished with Roger, I highly recommend doing so; he is a fantastic guide and an outstanding person to spend time with.

My oldest son, Andrew was fortunate to draw a bear harvest tag this year. Once again we can look forward to heading out with Mike Rogers from Sauk County and his gang up in Iron County. We hunted with Mike last year when I transferred my tag to Andrew. It was our first time hunting bear with dogs, and we had a blast. On the third day of the hunt, Andrew harvested his first bear that dressed out at 323 pounds. Mike and his gang have their work cut out for them to top that one. After this, it will be time for me to concentrate on some of the



beautiful whitetails that are roaming my property.

In business matters, the Executive Committee met on Friday, June 22nd, for appointing delegates to committees for 2012-2013. As was mentioned at this year's convention, a lot of changes were made in making committee selections. In an effort to make sure that every district had representation on every committee, this year the Executive Committee asked District Councilors to review their delegates' personal data questionnaires and make committee recommendations on behalf of their district. The two exceptions were the Great Lakes Committee and the Mississippi River Committee, based on geography and delegate interest. However, since there was minimal interest by delegates to

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GIVE US YOUR FEEDBACK!!

This is your newsletter! Let us know what you would like to see—topic updates, articles, discussions, or features—in upcoming issues of the *Conservation Chronicle*.

Send your ideas, comments, pictures and articles to:

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Forging New Partnerships

By Lee Fahrney & Sharon Fandel

"The times they are a changin'" coos Bob Dylan in his 1964 ballad about contemporary shifts in American culture. For some, recent events suggest it may be time for Conservation Congress to expand their vision to include forging new relationships. Quite a lot has changed since the Congress was first formed in 1934, and over the years many new organizations and groups have emerged as new issues and approaches to natural resource management and protection have evolved.

And what does this have to do with partnership or cooperation? Well, plenty!

In addition to the more traditional "hook and bullet" organizations that continue to be the core of our foundation and promotion of conservation efforts, there are many other groups that also share this vested interest in resource protection. The Nature Conservancy is just one example, where officials from the group responded thusly to a recent query on deer damage to their properties:

"....Nature Conservancy staff have observed significant impacts from deer browse on plant life, (resulting in) low numbers of seedlings and young trees of native species such as oak, white cedar, white pine and hemlock.



"We're concerned about the loss of plant diversity and tree age diversity within forests which has impacts on birds and other wildlife. As mature trees die naturally or are harvested for timber, very few ecologically and economically desirable trees are replacing them. Instead, they are being replaced with non-native and invasive tree species."

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Chairman's Update...continued from page 1

participate in the Great Lakes Committee and given that this committee was not assigned any resolutions this year, the Executive Committee decided to table the Great lakes Committee for this year. It will be back next year.

Some of you may have noticed that you were not assigned to a committee this year. First, the Executive Committee remained consistent in removing anyone who had an unexcused absence from their committee meetings last year. If you know you will not be able to attend your committee meeting, please be sure to call your committee chair, vice-chair or secretary to let them know. Second, some delegates didn't fill out a personal data questionnaire, leaving committee preferences unknown; therefore, those folks were typically not assigned to a committee. Lastly, some folks didn't want to be assigned to a committee. The Executive Committee, in working with the councilors, tried our best to remain consistent in following these guidelines when making committee selections. Please keep in mind this was our first year attempting this new approach, and we will likely be adjusting as we move forward. If you find any errors, please contact your district councilors to discuss what committees are available, and have your councilor contact me and we'll make every effort to assign you to a committee.

We made some leadership moves among the committees as well. Lee Fahrney will chair the Wolf Committee, Al Shook will chair of the Legislative Committee, Al Brown will chair the Endangered Resources & Law Enforcement Committee and Rick Olson will chair the Public &

Private Lands Committee. It was important to me to have our District Councilors in leadership positions within our committees and now all of the Executive Councilors are either chairs, vice-chairs, co-chairs or secretaries on committees this year.

The Strategic Planning Committee is up and running, and has its third meeting August 13. The committee elected Mike Murphy (Columbia Co) as chair, Jayne Meyer (Dane Co) as vice-chair and Larry Bonde (Manitowoc Co) as secretary. The facilitator, Art Lersch, commented that in its first meeting the group made some great progress, and I'm excited to see what recommendations come out of this committee. I encourage you to take some time and read the summary reports which are posted online after each meeting along with the meeting minutes.

The Executive Committee again requests that all committees that have been assigned resolutions, schedule their meetings, and have any resolutions being forwarded from their committee to the Executive Council for possible inclusion on the spring questionnaire to Kari by November 30th. All resolutions forwarded out of committee should be written in question format. If they are not written in question format, they will be returned to the committee chair to do so. Please work closely with your committee liaisons and Kari so that we have well-written questions and reasoned, supportive background information to discuss at January's Executive Council meeting. I want to thank all committee chairs for responding to this request. This will not only help Kari and Sharon in preparing for the January Executive Council meeting, it will ensure the intent of the question is

accurately relayed from the committee to the Executive Council.

Last April the Congress helped Dr. Kroll, Dr. Guynn and Dr. Alt in facilitating the six town hall meetings that were held throughout the state. In early July, Dr. Kroll submitted the final report and recommendations on deer management to the Governor's Office. The report is posted on the Department of Administration's website – if you have the time, I recommend that you look it over. Of note, Dr. Kroll states in his report that "the WDNR should work closely (through the local biologist) with the Conservation Congress in developing goals and strategies at the county level." He also goes on to say, "We feel the Conservation Congress must have a more active role in deer management decision-making at the local level." The report does not go into specific detail as to how they would like to see the Congress more involved, but we hope to get some further direction and clarification in future discussions with Dr. Kroll and his committee. Our Big Game Committee will be discussing his report and their meeting on August 18th and as always, we'll keep you posted as developments occur.

In closing, I want to thank you for all of the tireless work you do on behalf of conservation for the citizens of this state. We have a vision for the Congress, and that is to serve as an advisory body that represents our constituents with the integrity, accountability and credibility in which we were created. Let us continue in our mission to provide all Wisconsin citizens with a local avenue for input and exchange concerning conservation issues.



Wolves Take Center Stage

By Lee Fahrney, Wolf Committee Chair

It didn't take long after Wisconsin Act 169 was signed into law on April 2, 2012 for the Department of Natural Resources and the Natural Resources Board to swing into action to establish a wolf hunting season. At its May meeting, the NRB approved a scope statement for an emergency rule to initiate a wolf harvest season beginning Oct. 15 and closing the last day of February, per Act 169.

At its most recent meeting (July 17 in Stevens Point) the NRB voted for final approval of the emergency rule after listening to more than forty individuals who signed up to testify from both sides of the issue.

Barring a court challenge, the upcoming wolf hunting season will serve as a temporary framework for this year. A more permanent rule change for the wolf hunting season will be a work-in-progress and depend on results from the first year's season as well as continued input from the public and other stakeholders for further consideration by DNR staff.

Here are the general parameters of the 2012 hunt:

- ◆ License: Wolf trapping and hunting license combined
- ◆ Fees: Application fee \$10, License fee \$100 resident and \$500 non-resident
- ◆ Use of fees: License and application fees fund wolf depredation payments first and then other costs
- ◆ License transfer: allowed by application to DNR no later than 15 days before season
- ◆ Preference system: one half random drawing; one half by drawing based on preference
- ◆ Season dates: October 15, 2012 to February 28, 2013
- ◆ Legal Weapons: Firearms, bows, crossbows
- ◆ Shot size: larger than BB allowed
- ◆ Dogs: May use up to 6 dogs in a pack to track or trail wolves beginning day after deer season

- ◆ Night Hunting: legal option beginning day after deer season
- ◆ Use of Lights: flashlights only at point of kill
- ◆ Cable restraints: May be used as a trapping method
- ◆ Baiting: allowed for trapping; allowed but restricted for hunting
- ◆ Calling: allowed including electronic calls
- ◆ Reporting and registration of harvest: required
- ◆ Harvest zones, quotas and permit levels: May be determined by department
- ◆ Zone season closures: Protocol provided for closing seasons based on wolf harvest through news release, website, and telephone registration system.

There are numerous issues that will be part of the evolutionary process for wolf hunting. Future discussions likely will include a larger emphasis on social carrying capacity as well as on biological carrying capacity which has been the primary focus in the past.

As always, the Conservation Congress stands ready to play a key role in this discussion. The Congress considers it important to include all interested citizens and organizations and to keep an open mind to the perspective of others.

To this end, the newly-reorganized Wolf Study Committee claims seven new members including Lee Fahrney as chair and Laurie Groskopf as secretary. In addition, the committee now includes a vice chair, with Scott McAuly serving in that

capacity. While the committee includes delegates from each of the Congress' 12 districts, membership favors northern Wisconsin with several delegates from Districts 1-4 where most a large portion of the wolf population exists.

The wolf committee met on July 28th at the Mead Wildlife Area Visitor Center in Milladore for a review of the current status of the wolf population, depredation issues and the new framework outlined for the upcoming wolf hunting season. Committee members concluded that it is particularly important to have a Congress presence on those DNR committees dealing with wolf issues. This includes any science/research committee as well as any group formulating the permanent wolf harvest rule.

We will look to all interested Congress delegates for advice and consultation on the direction of wolf hunting in Wisconsin. All interested delegates are invited and encouraged to relay their comments or concerns to the wolf committee chair. The wolf committee unanimously agreed to meet again on Dec. 15, 2012 to review the progress of the wolf hunting season.

For more information on the wolf hunting season, visit the DNR website at dnr.wi.gov and search for "wolf."



A gray wolf seen in Iowa County. Photo courtesy of Kate Cassidy.

Strategic Planning Process Underway

By Sharon Gericke Fandel

The newly-formed Strategic Planning Committee held its first meeting on Monday, June 18th at Mead Wildlife Area Visitor Center. It was the first of several meetings the committee will have on its way toward developing a Strategic Plan for the Congress.

The strategic planning process is being facilitated by Art Lersch, a Community Resource Development Educator with the UW-Extension. Under his guidance the committee will work through key processes to review the Congress's organizational structure and operations.

At its first meeting the committee selected a chair (Mike Murphy), vice-chair (Jayne Meyer) and secretary (Larry Bonde). They also developed meeting ground

rules and listed their expectations for the strategic planning process.

"Despite it being early in the process, some key focus areas have already emerged through committee discussion," commented Art Lersch.

In addition to posting meeting agendas and minutes, to the Congress website, we will be posting facilitator reports. We encourage you to take a look at these reports as they become available, and to contact a strategic planning committee member, Kari, Sharon, or Art Lersch, if you have input or additional ideas you would like to see discussed at the planning sessions.

An obvious benefit to the Congress of completing a strategic planning effort is self-evaluation. At a time when relevancy is the key to a successful program, the Congress

has been challenged to re-evaluate how we do business and how to work effectively with our constituents in the 21st Century.

At the end of this process the Congress will have the opportunity to improve upon a 78-year strong foundation by maintaining those processes by which the Congress is successful while adopting new approaches to create opportunities for growth and longevity.



Yellow Lady's-slipper hiding out in Sauk County (photo courtesy Brad Hasheider).

Delegate Profile: Ken Risley, Green County

By Lee Fahrney

Soft-spoken and unassuming, **Ken Risley**

"walks the walk" like few others. At 62, he continues to lead by example, just as he has done during his 33-year tenure as a delegate to the Wisconsin Conservation Congress from Green County.



He has participated in Wisconsin's Learn to Hunt Bear program and routinely takes kids hunting – a contribution he considers his top priority. Risley makes a point of engaging youngsters without strong parental involvement or who come from poorer families. Having grown up poor himself in Kansas – as a youth he once trapped turtles and sold them for five cents apiece – he understands the family dynamics involved.

Risley has been elected to the Executive Council for the past 20 years while also serving as chair of the Upland Game Committee. He has also served as a member of the Hunting with Dogs Committee for all but a few of the last 33 years. Risley belongs to several local sportsmen's organizations including the Pecatonica River

Coon Hunters Association and the Green County Conservation League.

He was instrumental in establishing a free rabies vaccination program for area landowners as a way of paying them back for opening their land to sportsmen and women. The program has been making a positive contribution to landowner relations for the past 10 years, this year drawing more than 300 dogs.

But mostly, it's about the kids. The Wisconsin Youth State Championship Show and Hunt held at a local sportsman's club a couple of years ago is just one example. Upwards of 40 youngsters from as far away as Ohio competed in the event. After the show, Risley served as a judge as the youngsters took to the woods in search of raccoons. "No raccoons are shot during this contest," he said. "It's just a chance to get out into the woods and for the kids to have a good time with their dogs."

The four participants in his "cast" release their dogs simultaneously along a creek. Risley spends the next few hours hustling alongside his charges through corn fields, brush-entangled hillsides and swampy creek bottoms. And even though one dog (Sniper) takes off in a direction opposite the other three, Risley manages to keep track of everyone, marking down points for those dogs that score a strike (initial discovery) or for tracking or treeing a raccoon.

Having worked the three more cooperative pooches that traveled east from the starting point, Risley makes his way back to Sniper who has been baying, nose skyward, at the base of a large maple tree. "I see him," Risley reports, meaning the dog and his handler will get positive points. Eventually, Sniper is declared the winner in his cast.

Winning the contest, however, is a secondary objective for Risley. He's more interested in character building. "Kids have choices," he says emphatically. "They can get into booze and drugs, or they can take a walk in the woods."

Risley genuinely enjoys working with kids. "It seems the older I get the more I want to pay back for all the blessings I've received in my life, he said quietly. "I really appreciate what other people have done for me."

Armed with a degree in mechanical engineering, he is the owner of Risley Pellet Solutions, selling biomass fuel pellets and pellet stoves and furnaces. Married to wife, Terry, Risley is father to four children – Chris, Mark, Paul and Kate. He also raises Walker coon hounds, now totaling 19.

//Portions of this article are taken from a 2009 article by the author published in The Monroe Times.//

News You Can Use: Congress Positions

- In May, the Congress issued a press release in support of the DNR's announcement that it would use stewardship funds to purchase easement rights to over 67,000 acres of land in north-west Wisconsin, ensuring public access to these lands. This area will be known as the Brule-St. Croix Legacy Forest.
- The WCC also wrote a letter to Governor Walker, legislators, and Secretary Stepp in support of maintaining the Brule Hatchery Facility after a citizen resolution was forwarded to the Executive Council for action. The department has since indicated that the Brule Hatchery will remain open. Closing the hatchery was identified as an option for cost saving for the Fisheries program.
- Lee Fahrney testified before the Natural Resources Board at their July meeting regarding the upcoming wolf season. His complete testimony can be found online.

Keep Up With the Congress:
Read Congress testimony ,
statements, and press releases
online at dnr.wi.gov search
"Conservation Congress"

New WCC Coordinator on board



Sharon Fandel harvested her first deer (an adult doe) in December 2011, thanks to some great mentoring by WCC Sauk County Delegates Brad Hasheider (left) and Mike Rogers (right).

As most of you are aware of by now, the Conservation Congress now has an official WCC Coordinator on staff to assist Kari Lee-Zimmermann with all of the duties involved with running the Congress on a day-to-day basis.

The Congress started off 2012 by adding **Sharon Gericke Fandel** as the new WCC Coordinator. Sharon officially began her duties in early January, transitioning over from her previous position with DNR's Upland Wildlife Program where she had worked since 2007. Many of you may know or recognize her already from her work with the Upland Wildlife Program, where she served for a brief time as the Acting Upland Wildlife Ecologist. While working

with the Upland Program, she helped manage the state's turkey, pheasant, grouse and quail programs as well as assisting with Farm Bill Conservation Program implementation efforts.

Transition time to the new position was scarce, however, as Kari was due to depart on maternity leave at the end of January, and there was plenty to catch up on before then!

During the months of February and March,

Sharon had jumped into the new position and took over the helm as both the Liaison and Coordinator while Kari and Zac were busy with their newest family addition.

Thankfully, the skills and knowledge Sharon came into the position with, and her connection to several WCC delegates & DNR staff, helped smooth the transition into her new role.

Sharon has a B.S. double major in Wildlife and Biology from UWSP and a M.S. in Ecology from UC-Davis. She has worked for the US Fish & Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, Wisconsin DATCP and as an LTE in the WDNR Bureau of Wildlife Management.

Citizen Resolutions Continue Moving Forward

The questions keep coming regarding the fate of WCC advisory questions that passed statewide during the 2012 spring hearings. Everyone, it seems, has heard various accounts about how Act 21, signed into law last year, will add time to the approval process for administrative rule changes.

The overarching intent of Act 21 was to increase accountability and transparency within the administrative rule-making process for all agencies. Among the finer details, Act 21 adds the approval of a scope statement by the Governor and the Natural Resources Board at the beginning of the process, adds a requirement for an economic impact analysis, and requires additional review by the Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules following approval by the Legislature.

Because of the added requirements for

scope statements and economic analyses, the rule-making process and timeline is extended. Notably, Act 21 doesn't allow for Legislative review of administrative rule change proposals in even numbered years after the floor session ends in early March. As a result, all rule change proposals (which are asked as DNR Rule Change Questions on the Spring Hearing Questionnaire) will now be presented at the Spring Hearings in odd-numbered years. Any rule change proposals that receive a supporting vote by the public can then head to the Legislature for review prior to implementation.

The good news is that the Spring Hearings remain the main forum for conservation and natural resource proposals to be vetted by the public. Citizen Resolutions will continue to be received each year, and WCC Advisory Questions will also be asked each year, ensuring that the WCC resolution process continues.

Since passage of the bill, the Congress leadership has been working diligently to do two things; first - comply with the law as written, and second, work toward streamlining the processing of those matters that are routine in nature and do not warrant the intense scrutiny demanded by the legislation.

From the outset, the Congress has acknowledged that some citizen resolutions and/or advisory questions may require greater public input than they would have received in the past. If there is a significant economic impact or there is strong opposition from local organizations and government agencies, then a full-blown process of public hearings and legislative oversight might be in order.

But for those proposals having widespread support and which present minimal economic or biological im-

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Many of us share the same concerns when we look out across the Wisconsin landscape, and it doesn't necessarily stop (or start, for that matter) with deer damage – there is undoubtedly a laundry list of concerns that many within our own delegation share wholeheartedly with other conservation organizations.

So, the bigger question then is, "How do we capitalize on our common ground to work together to promote proper and wise use and management of our state's natural resources?"

One way is to look at exploring positive relationships with other conservation-minded organizations that in the past the WCC may not have partnered with – land trusts, habitat management organizations, local lake and stream groups.

In a recent discussion with Gathering Waters Conservancy (an umbrella organization for Wisconsin's 50+ land trust organizations), WCC Secretary Lee Fahrney engaged Mike Carlson, GWC's Government Relations Director, to discuss potential opportunities for working with GWC and similar groups. Below are responses from Mike, when asked about partnering efforts of GWC and WCC.

WCC: In what areas might Gathering Waters Conservancy (GWC) and the Conservation Congress work together to further our mutual goals?

GWC: From my perspective, there are quite a few places where GWC and the Conservation Congress can work together. As [an umbrella organization for Wisconsin's 50+ land trust organizations] we see a lot of potential value in working more closely with the Conservation Congress.

On the public policy front, I think we can work together to support programs like the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund. ...I really think... that the land trust community and the Conservation Congress can work hand in hand to ensure that Stewardship remains well funded and remains a successful program for years to come. Also, I think we can do a better job of connecting land trusts with local sportsman's groups to partner on programs like Learn to Hunt, habitat restoration efforts, etc. There are certainly already examples of these kinds of partnerships around the state, but we could make a more concerted effort at building some of these connections. Finally, it also might be useful for us to provide opportunities around the state for our members to get together and discuss different issues (e.g., wildlife management goals, land acquisitions priorities, etc.). I think there's a lot of common ground between our organizations and face-to-face discussions are a great way to build trust and find new ways to work together.

WCC: What can the Congress do to engage GWC members in its process?

GWC: My guess is that the Spring Hearing process is a little foreign to many of our members and they're not sure how best to engage in the [WCC Spring Hearing] process. GWC could certainly help to inform our members about how they can be involved with the Conservation Congress. It might also be useful for us to connect the Conservation Congress' county-level leadership with our local land trust organizations. I think if there's a more consistent dialogue between land trusts and Conservation Congress leadership that our members would feel more comfortable plugging into the process.

WCC: Would a discussion of the protocol we use to forward [natural resource] suggestions to the Natural Resources Board be of interest to GWC membership?

GWC: Yes, I think any discussion of protocol and procedure would be useful so we can better understand how we can be helpful and how we can plug our members into the [Congress] process.

WCC: How might fish and wildlife management issues connect with GWC objectives?

GWC: Many of our land trust members are interested in fish and wildlife management issues because of their focus on land protection, restoration, and management. I think they could at least provide a useful perspective.

WCC: What GWC activities might be appropriate for some sort of cooperative effort?

GWC: At a statewide level, we could include WCC into our annual Wisconsin Land Trust Retreat (which is our annual conference). Regionally and locally, we can help to find good opportunities to connect our local land trusts with the WCC.

As a side note, Mike Carlson joined the Congress' annual Convention as a breakout session this year, and attended the spring hearings for the first time ever...all thanks to a little partnering effort.

Perhaps it is time to forge new relationships on issues of mutual concern. It is in everyone's best interest to work cooperatively in protecting our natural resources and maintaining stable and sustainable fish and wildlife populations.

Ag Damage Ad Hoc Committee Findings & Recommendations

Marlin Laidlaw, 2011 Ag Damage Ad Hoc Committee Chair

The Ag Damage Committee held two meetings to review the present program which has been in existence for 30 years. The public provided testimony both written and in person.

The committee also reviewed related resolutions which came to the Conservation Congress through the spring hearing process.

It was evident based on testimony that

the committee received that there is significant abuse happening in the present program. The abuses are varied from breaking game laws to not recovering game, to abuses to neighbors and their property and more. The gaming of the system is regularly practiced by some enrollees in the Ag Damage program.

Some points that arose during this deliberation were;

No other states pay for damage, shooting tags only.

Deer have a value just like crops so the

Deer's value should be accounted for before a deductible starts.

The threshold for payment is too low if landowners have larger tracts, i.e.: 40 acres vs. 400 acres.

The shooting of Deer during February through June when Doe are carrying Fawns and Bucks are without antlers was the item the public most disliked about the program.

The difficulty that hunters had gaining access to property where tags had been issued.

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Congress Delegates Assist at the 2012 Youth Outdoor Expo

Photo and article by Lee Fahrney

"We've never been to the Expo before, and we all agree that it's our favorite field trip so far! We just couldn't get enough of it." - Aimee Guzman

Three schools attended the Wisconsin Outdoor Education Expo, May 17-18, with the assistance of transportation grants from the Friends of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress.

Conservation Congress delegates turned out in force once again to assist with this year's Wisconsin Outdoor Expo in Dodge County. In addition to the Congress' Wall of Fame display, a number of WCC delegates helped out at other displays including the always-popular Wisconsin Trappers Association hide skinning operation. Meanwhile, Dale Maas (Dodge County) and Jim Shurts (Dane County) were here, there and everywhere, helping to keep things running smoothly during the two-day event, May 17-18. Additional thanks to Congress delegates Jim Burmeister, Rick Swenson, Bob Haase and Lee Fahrney for helping with set up and of staffing of the exhibit.



Bob Haase assists a newly-ordained fly fishing enthusiast in creating her very own trout fly. Haase is a delegate to the Wisconsin Conservation Congress from Fond du Lac County. Photo by Lee Fahrney

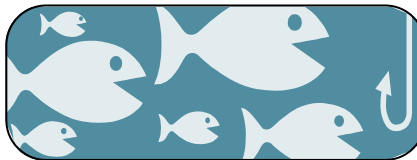
Fond du Lac County delegate Bob Haase has been a longtime supporter of the Expo, demonstrating his renowned fly tying expertise. Haase led a contingent of 16 volunteers who assisted as many as 1,000 youngsters create their own fresh new trout flies.

While only a recent addition (2 years) to the Conservation Congress, Bob

is well-known throughout the Fox Valley as the host of Outdoors Thursday at KFIZ radio in Fond du Lac. Bob serves on a number of outdoor organizations in Wisconsin, including the state council of Trout Unlimited.

While the Conservation Congress and many other organizations contribute to cost of the Expo each year, more help is needed. According to event organizers with the Wisconsin Outdoor Alliance Foundation, many of the core sponsors have been retained, but at reduced levels of support. Expo officials hope to obtain additional sponsors to ensure the Expo continues as a free event that draws approximately 3,000 fourth- and fifth-grade students, teachers and parents each year. Sponsorships are welcome at any dollar level. For more info go to: www.wisexpo.com or call (877) 432-7698.

Ad Damage Recommendations... cont'd from page 6



The Committee recommendations are:

Farmer's are responsible for harvested crops. High value crops such as gardens, orchards, should be fenced.

A threshold of \$500. of crop damage for 20 acres, \$1000. for 40 acres, \$2000. for 80 acres, ect, is required prior to any shooting permits can be issued. Hay and small grain may show damage early in plant life but have the ability to regenerate. These crops will need to have a much larger amount of damage before abatement takes place.

Landowners and Renters collecting on crop insurance are not eligible to receive compensation from the Ag Damage program on the same fields.

Lands with shooting permits may not bait, have food plots, leave crops stand, or feed to attract wildlife unless authorized by the DNR.

Shooting permits must be filled by the end of the last hunting season for that species.

Landowners/Renters must notify the DNR within 14 days of damage first occurring.

Shooting permits are for property where damage occurs and continuous lands.

If account 82 shooting permit quotas are not met the first year, no permits will be issued for that property for two years unless public hunting is allowed.

Eliminate Account 82. This program allows the issuing of permits without allowing access to the public. No crop damage payments are made for this program. Many of the complaints the committee received were made about abuses of Account 82.

The committee believes that the Dept of Ag and Farm Bureau should review these recommendations and provide input.

Dennis Vanden Bloomen and daughter Gretchen with one of their catches. Dennis is a WCC delegate from Eau Claire County and Chair of the Trout Committee. For the last 14 years he has organized "adults with disabilities" fishing events in Eau Claire and Menomonee. About 40 people are registered between the 2 locations plus volunteers and group home staff that help. They fish about 16 summer evenings between the two locations. Gretchen was the inspiration for the entire program.



2012 Manitowoc Convention Recap

Chair Bohmann's report to the Natural Resources Board on the 2012 convention.

Chair Clausen, Secretary Stepp, and members of the Board. I want to thank you for this opportunity to present the results of the WCC annual convention.

In accordance with our purpose and mission I would like to take this opportunity to review the business that was conducted by the Congress at our annual meeting. The Wisconsin Conservation Congress convened for its 78th annual convention on May 10, 11, and 12, 2012 in Manitowoc. Our statewide delegation elected Executive Councilors and the Executive Committee in addition to reviewing DNR advisory questions, and each of the proposed congress advisory questions from the 2012 spring hearings questionnaire.

Elections

The 2012 Executive Committee remains the same, consisting of Larry Bonde (Manitowoc County, Vice-Chair), Lee Fahrney (Iowa County, Secretary) and me (Rob Bohmann, Racine County, Chair). I would like to thank each of the councilors from 2011-12 that will not be returning this year for their dedication and hard work and also congratulate and welcome those that have been elected and re-elected. For 2012, we have three new Executive Councilors on the 24-member Council.

DNR Advisory Questions

At the 2012 Spring Hearings, the public voted on 91 advisory questions. The delegation reviewed the results of the questions that appeared as Department advisory questions - 15 wildlife questions, 23 fisheries questions, and one NRB question. At our convention, the Wildlife and Fisheries Programs reviewed the results summaries with the delegation, and discussed the future possibilities for each idea given the citizen feedback.



The newly elected 2012-13 Executive Councilors gather for a photo.

Because there were no Department proposed rule changes, this year afforded the WCC and Department a unique opportunity to spend more time on updates on current issues and topics of interest. Tom Hauge and Mike Staggs gave very informative presentations on issues such as the status of the wolf delisting and season framework, the CWD positive deer found in Washburn County, the deer study project, bear and badger research, VPA, Farm Bill, and NAWCA program updates, as well as a summary of the findings of the comprehensive study done on Wisconsin's fish propagation system.

WCC Advisory Questions

There were 52 Congress advisory proposals presented for public comment at this year's Spring Hearings. Forty-eight (48) of these proposals were approved by the statewide votes, and 48 were recommended for advancement to the Department and Natural Resources Board for consideration. Four proposals were not supported by the public vote, and consequently, three of the four proposals (numbers 47, 65, and 91) were not recommended for further consideration by the Department, Legislature or the Board. Question 42 relating to the consolidation of jurisdictions for wetland management regulations was not approved by a statewide vote (1692 yes, 1867 no), but was approved by 35 counties, rejected by 35 counties and tied in two counties. It was advanced by the floor of the Congress for further consideration. Question 63, the transfer of license or permit to a senior or disabled person, was approved both by statewide vote (2743 yes, 771 no) and by county vote (71 counties approving, 1 county rejecting), however, because the background language that was approved by the Executive Council was slightly different from the language in the original resolution, the author felt the intent of his resolution was altered and wanted the entire resolution and results rejected.

The other three that were not supported statewide were questions 47 (creation of a public/private antlerless deer system), 65 (creating a maximum of 25 mph on frozen water), and 91 (relating to panfish limits).

Town Hall Meetings

The WCC also discussed the town hall meetings which were held in each county following the spring hearings. This was a new approach that the WCC was



A shooting bench that was constructed from salvaged lumber was built and donated as a raffle item at this year's convention. From left: Jim Heffner, Ben Loma, Ed Choiniski and Roger Sabota from Oneida County, and Dave Werner from Vilas County.

attempting to gain input on the Governor's charge to the Congress to create recommendations for regulation simplification and elimination of barriers to participation. Input from the meetings was wide-ranging, with some counties reporting a lot of participation and some good ideas, while others indicated that no one spoke up at their meetings. One suggestion for improvement of the town hall meeting style that came up a number of times was that attendees did not like having to write down their ideas and would have preferred to have someone else taking notes of the discussion. This will be taken into consideration for any future town hall meetings the WCC may hold.

County delegations were to have summarized the input from the town hall meetings and turned them in at the convention. The Executive Committee will appoint an ad hoc committee to review the summaries from these meetings and prepare a report of recommendations for the Governor.



WCC Educator of the Year, Cathy Chybowsky, receives her award from 2011 Chair Rob Bohmann.

Strategic Plan

Art Lersch, a Community Resource Development Educator with the UW-Extension was on hand to present the WCC Strategic Plan process that will take place over the next year and will provide a full review of the WCC's organizational structure and operations. We are excited about beginning this process and have nominated delegates to the newly formed WCC Strategic Planning Committee to begin working on this charge beginning next month.

Awards

This year, as in the past, the Congress recognized a number of Conservation Organizations, individuals and DNR employees for their outstanding service and dedication to Wisconsin's natural resources. **Kent Van Horn**, Wildlife Biologist, received an award for his exceptional achievements in wildlife management, his dedication to enhancing opportunities for waterfowl hunters, and his commitment to working cooperatively with the citizens of Wisconsin. Retired fisheries supervisor **Paul Peeters** received our fisheries award for his exceptional leadership and dedication to improving Wisconsin's world-class Lake Michigan fishery. **Darrell**

Waldera, Training Director for the DNR Bureau of Law Enforcement, was recognized as our law enforcement officer of the year for his dedication to the protection of Wisconsin's citizens and natural resources and his commitment to providing exceptional law enforcement training to warden recruits. And **Warden Mike Nice**, Richland County, was honored as Waterfowl Officer of the Year for his outstanding efforts in waterfowl education and wetland protection.

We also honored our Congress delegate of the year, **Dale Maas, Dodge County** for his exceptional service to the citizens of this state, his unwavering dedication to conservation and for selflessly giving of his time and knowledge. Dale is a driving force of the successful Outdoor Education Expo held annually in Dodge County. Since 2006 this hands-on event has brought the classroom to life for about 25,000 kids, providing a free, fun outdoor experience and inspiring children to become active outdoor enthusiasts. And the success of this event is due in large part to Dale's behind the scenes work. We also gratefully acknowledged the dedication of our delegates by handing out our years of service certificates and pins to those delegates who have served the congress for 15, 20, 25, 30 and over 35 years.

In addition, awards recognizing **Bradley Swenson, Clarence Uhren, and Joe Janak** were given for their efforts to mentor first-time bear hunters. **Dave and Gary Mabie**, who continue to mentor the winner of the WCC Learn to Hunt Bear tag, were also recognized for their ongoing dedication to passing on our outdoor heritage. And **Maurice Amundson, Mitchel Kirchmeyer, and Richard Kirchmeyer** were recognized for generously transferring a 2011 bear permit to a first time hunter.

The Outstanding Local Conservation Club was the **Beaver Dam Conservationists** and the Statewide Organization

of the year was the **Milwaukee School of Engineering Ducks Unlimited**. Both organizations were recognized for their impressive conservation accomplishments last year. The 2011 Educator of the Year award was received by a very deserving **Cathy Chybowski**, retired Kettle Moraine High School Biology and Advanced Placement Environmental Studies teacher, who tirelessly engages her students in conservation efforts through "work parties" at LuLu Lake Preserve and Lapham Peak State Natural Area and who has made a lasting impression on so many.

Finally, on behalf of the Conservation Congress, I would like to thank Jane Wiley and Greg Kazmierski for their attendance and Jane's presentation to the delegation. Your involvement and attendance is a testament to your commitment to the role of the Congress as an advisory body to the Natural Resources Board.

Note: Since this report was given to the NRB in May, the Executive Committee decided not to appoint an ad hoc committee to review the town hall meeting reports from April's spring hearings. Instead, Chair Bohmann will review the reports from each county and present the summary to the Executive Council at their January meeting.



Dodge County delegate Dale Maas was honored for his dedication and contributions to the Congress and the Outdoor Youth Expo.

Citizen Resolutions...continued from page 5

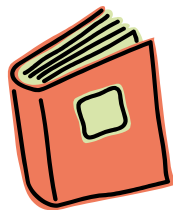
pact, there remains the potential for timely implementation. Congress leadership and agency staff have been working to keep those proposals on a faster track.

As an example, an advisory question that passed statewide on the Congress side of the 2012 questionnaire still has the potential to become a DNR rule proposal on the 2013 questionnaire with the possibility of being implemented the same year.

In fact, the department, in close cooperation with the Governor's Office, was able to send over a condensed scope statement package covering all Spring Hearing rule-change related requests. The good news is, as of this printing, the Governor's Office has approved the entire package of Spring Hearing scope statements and returned it to the department for internal review by the programs, species committees and law enforcement.

So while there remain questions about the timeline of the new rule-making process under Act 21 and how it will ultimately play out, we can be reassured the Conservation Congress process of collecting public input and forwarding citizen resolutions via the Spring Hearings will remain a timely and valuable benchmark in the administrative rule-making and rule-change process.

Understanding the WCC Code of Procedures



By Larry Bonde, Vice Chair

A common question that is heard from delegates is, “Why do we have to have things posted on our agenda in order to take action on them at Conservation Congress meetings? At meetings for other organizations that I belong to, we can talk about and make decisions on anything that comes up at our meeting.”

Plain and simple, the answer is **Wisconsin Open Meetings Law**.

Wisconsin Open Meeting Law (WOML) applies to all government bodies. Since the Wisconsin Conservation Congress is an advisory body created in state statute and is funded by the state, the Congress is considered a quasi-government entity and is required to comply with WOML. That applies to all the meetings of the WCC, from our annual convention all the way down to study committee meetings. So, the next question is usually, “What does that mean for our meeting?”

In a brief overview I will try to explain a few of the important aspects of WOML. First and foremost, all meetings must be publicly noticed. Every public notice of a meeting must give the “time, date, place and subject matter of the meeting.” So what makes a meeting officially “publicly noticed”? The provision in Wis. Stat. § 19.84(3) requires that every public notice

of a meeting be given at least twenty-four hours in advance of the meeting, unless “for good cause” such notice is “impossible or impractical.” If “good cause” exists, the notice should be given as soon as possible and must be given at least two hours in advance of the meeting.

In addition to requiring advance public notice of every meeting of a governmental body, the open meetings law also requires that “*all meetings of all state and local governmental bodies shall be publicly held in places reasonably accessible to members of the public and shall be open to all citizens at all times.*”

Although it is not required, the WOML does permit a governmental body to set aside a portion of an open meeting as a public comment period. Such a period must be included on the meeting notice. During such a period, the body may receive information from the public and may discuss any matter raised by the public. If a member of the public raises a subject that does not appear on the meeting notice, however, it is advisable to limit the discussion of that subject and to defer any extensive deliberation to a later meeting for which more specific notice can be given. In addition, WOML also clarifies that the body may not take formal action on a subject raised in the public comment period unless that subject is also identified in the meeting notice.

As far as what items or topics may be discussed at the meetings, a governmental

body, when conducting a meeting, is free to discuss any aspect of any subject identified in the public notice of that meeting as well as issues reasonably related to that subject. However, the group may not address any topics that are not reasonably related to the information provided in the meeting notice. That being said, there is no requirement that a governmental body must follow the agenda in the order listed on the meeting notice unless a particular agenda item has been noticed for a specific time. Nor is a governmental body required to actually discuss every item contained in the public meeting notice. It is reasonable, in appropriate circumstances for example, for a body to cancel a previously planned discussion or postpone it to a later date.

Since most WCC Committees don’t have meetings more than once a year it is important delegates contact committee chairs if they wish to discuss an item at their meetings. While it is the committee chair who creates the agenda, I encourage all delegates, once they know on what committee they will serve, to contact the chair with regarding the agenda if they have ideas or issues they would like to discuss.

The WCC is only as strong as its delegates. Informed and engaged delegates make for a strong Congress!

For more information on WOML visit [http://www.doi.state.wi.us/AWP/2010OMCG-PRO/2010 OML Compliance Guide.pdf](http://www.doi.state.wi.us/AWP/2010OMCG-PRO/2010%20OML%20Compliance%20Guide.pdf)



Stay Connected! Sign-Up for Email Updates

You can sign up to get updates on WCC happenings as well as DNR information using the Gov-delivery system. On the WCC or DNR web pages, just click on the icon that says “Subscribe to DNR updates” (see image at right) and enter your email address. You will then be able to select the topics or areas on which you’d like to receive updates.

For instance, you can get an email alert every time the WCC calendar is updated with a new meeting date or agenda, or you can get an update when meeting minutes are posted. It is a great way to

stay informed about what is happening with the WCC.

You can also get alerts on new information relating to specific DNR programs such as Outdoor Reports, breaking news, fishing and hunting seasons and updates, outdoor recreation, health and safety alerts, research updates, education and training information, and many others.

The Gov-delivery system also offers wireless alerts for those individuals who wish to receive updates on their mobile device.



If you have email, take advantage of this fantastic new tool to keep yourself informed about the WCC happenings and outdoor issues that are important to you.

Facelift for the WCC Website — check it out!

BusinessLicenses & RegulationsRecreationEducationTopicsContactJoin Us

Search or Keywords  

Wisconsin Conservation Congress

Find

scheduled meetings, agendas, and minutes.

Learn

more about the annual Spring Hearings and how you can participate.

Read

Congress press releases, position statements, and newsletters.

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) is the only "advisory body" in the state where citizens of Wisconsin elect delegates to represent their interests in natural resources, both local and statewide, by working with the Natural Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources to effectively manage Wisconsin's greatest asset, our abundant natural resources, for present and future generations to enjoy.

About the Congress

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- [Our mission](#)
- [Who we are](#)
- [WCC Public Input Process \[PDF\]](#)
- [WCC Brochure \[PDF\]](#)

Meet Your Delegates

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- [Local County Delegates](#)
- [Advisory/ Study Committees](#)
- [District Level and Executive Council](#)
- [Executive Committee](#)
- [Organizational structure \[PDF\]](#)

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- [Congress activities](#)
- [Annual WCC Award Recipients & Nomination Forms](#)
- [Learn To Hunt Bear Tag Winners & Application Forms](#)
- [Youth Outdoor Expo Travel Grant Winners & Application Forms](#)
- [Delegates in Action](#)
- [Outdoor shooting recreation](#)

Get involved

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- [Contact your local delegate \[PDF\]](#)
- [Attend Committee Meetings](#)
- [Participate in the Spring Hearings and WCC delegate elections](#)
- [Write a Citizen Resolution \[PDF\]](#)
- [WCC Facebook page \[Exit DNR\]](#)



By Sharon Gericke Fandel

Many of you have likely noticed that the Wisconsin DNR website recently got a big facelift. Over the past several months staff have been working tirelessly to move website content from the old webpages and shift them into the new template. As of September 1, 2012, the DNR's website will be completely moved over to its new module.

As you might imagine, the Conservation Congress was part of this process as well. Kari and I have been meeting with web coordinator staff to transition the Congress from its old site onto the new server. It was an excellent opportunity to take a fresh look at how we could improve both the layout and the content of the Congress website, both to make it more accessible and user-friendly for you as delegates, but to also create a place where citizens and organizations could

more easily learn about the Congress and how they could get involved.

While we are certain there will be tweaks made to the new layout, we think you will be happy with the updates.

All of the information that was available to you on the old website will still be available to you on the new website. So you can still readily gain access to the Congress calendar, scheduled meetings and minutes, Spring Hearing information, press releases and position statements, Conservation Chronicle Newsletters and all of your delegate resources.

Meanwhile, we've made several additions where we felt more information was needed or would be helpful. We've strived to make it easier for the public to find out more about the Congress and encourage their involvement.

Above you can see what the new landing page for the Congress website looks like. The three large, blue buttons immediately left of the Congress logo help to point you toward key Congress activities—a calendar of Congress meetings and events, Spring Hearing information, and Congress news.

Below that you will find four additional headings and sub-headings. Here is where we have been able to add greater depth and detail to the Congress's website, including information about our public input process, our history, Congress awards and more.

We hope you like what you see, and if you have suggestions for how we can make it even better, let us know!

**CHECK OUT PAGE 12!
FOR A MORE
IN-DEPTH LOOK!!**

As part of the Congress website upgrade, there was the opportunity to add several “headers” to highlight certain areas of the Congress.

About the Congress



- [History](#)
- [Our mission](#)
- [Who we are](#)
- [WCC Public Input Process \[PDF\]](#)
- [WCC Brochure \[PDF\]](#)

An obvious place to start was to tell people the background and history of the Congress. While its uniqueness to Wisconsin often is recognized in the world of conservationists, there remain a good number of people—citizens of Wisconsin—who are still

unfamiliar with this great organization and its unique role in providing an avenue for public opinion on all natural resource issues.

The creation of the **“About the Congress”** heading allows us to tell our story, share our history, and let people know how the Congress can and does influence natural resource decisions in Wisconsin.

The next heading, **“Meet Your Delegates”**, is all about you.

It describes the organizational structure of the Congress—from the public up to the Executive Committee. If you are a seasoned delegate, this heading and information within it will look most familiar to you. Delegates newer to the Congress will find this section helpful in understanding the layout of the organization.

Meet Your Delegates



- [Overview](#)
- [Local County Delegates](#)
- [Advisory/ Study Committees](#)
- [District Level and Executive Council](#)
- [Executive Committee](#)
- [Organizational structure \[PDF\]](#)

This is also the area where your “Delegate Resources” can be found—those ever-helpful travel voucher guidelines, the WCC Code of Procedures and Roberts Rules of Order—can all still be found under the [Local County Delegate](#) link.

Have you ever wished there was an area on the Congress website dedicated to sharing more about what the Congress does outside of advising the Natural Resources Board on conservation issues and hosting the annual Spring Hearings?

The **“Community Outreach”** heading is designed with just that in mind! Here we have the opportunity to talk about different activities the Congress is involved with (the Youth Outdoor Expo, for example). It is where we can post application and nomination forms for various awards, the LTH Bear Tag, and travel grants.

It is also a place that we can use to house the WCC Awards and perhaps a photo gallery of our delegates in action!

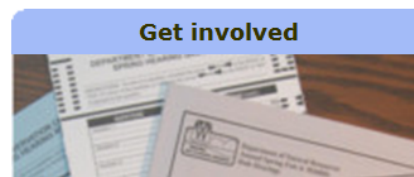
Community Outreach



- [Congress activities](#)
- [Annual WCC Award Recipients & Nomination Forms](#)
- [Learn To Hunt Bear Tag Winners & Application Forms](#)
- [Youth Outdoor Expo Travel Grant Winners & Application Forms](#)
- [Delegates in Action](#)
- [Outdoor shooting recreation](#)

You may have also thought about ways we could encourage more people to get involved—or at least help them understand how they could insert themselves into the Congress process.

The **“Get Involved”** heading aims to help anyone interested in becoming more engaged in the Congress’s



- [Become a WCC Delegate \[PDF\]](#)
- [Contact your local delegate \[PDF\]](#)
- [Attend Committee Meetings](#)
- [Participate in the Spring Hearings and WCC delegate elections](#)
- [Write a Citizen Resolution \[PDF\]](#)
- [WCC Facebook page \[Exit DNR\]](#)

public input process to learn more about how to do so...from contacting their local delegates, attending committee meetings, participating in the annual Spring Hearings, writing their own citizen resolution for consideration, or even joining the newly-established WCC Facebook page.

In any case, this can serve as a “go to” place to tell people about when they ask, “How do I learn more?!”

Youth Conservation Congress (YCC) Initiative Takes Off

Dear Fellow Wisconsin Conservation Congress Delegates,

I am excited to announce that the Outdoor Heritage sub-committee has finalized plans to proceed with our first Youth Conservation Congress. We will be starting this new endeavor with six youth delegates. Initially, due to liability issues, all potential youth delegates must be directly related to an adult who is presently serving as a Wisconsin Conservation Congress delegate. In other words, any youth interested in serving, must have a parent, grandparent, brother, sister, aunt, or uncle presently serving as a Congress delegate who would be responsible for the youth as well as serve as his or her mentor and transport the youth to and from meetings.

At present, there is no additional budget money allocated to reimburse for mileage, food, or lodging. Youth will attend the WCC's regular study committees with their adult delegate mentors so they can attend and participate in at least one study committee meeting while keeping expenses to a minimum. Ideally, the youth would go along with the adult delegate to their committee meeting and participate in that committee's meeting. If that doesn't work out for some reason, we will make every effort to arrange for them to participate in a different committee's meeting.

In addition, we would like to have one joint meeting of either the Executive Council or the Outdoor Heritage sub-committee and the youth and their mentors after all the youth delegates have attended a committee meeting. The intent of this meeting would be to get the feedback and input from the youth delegates as to what they liked, disliked, or would like to see or be more involved in to help shape future youth delegations.

I ask that all delegates and especially committee chairs, make every effort to welcome these youth into your committee, remain open to their suggestions and input, and encourage them to participate in the discussions. However, at this time, they do not have voting rights, as that would require a change to the Code of Procedures. That is one of the issues that will be addressed in the future as we move forward with this initiative.

On the reverse page is an application for the youth as well as the parents/legal guardians to fill out for participation in the Youth Conservation Congress. After completing the form, please return it to me by US mail at my address below, or by scanning it into your computer and e-mailing it to me at lab1@shawanonet.net. If you have any questions, feel free to call me at (715)526-5147.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Kevin Marquette

Wisconsin Conservation Congress

Chairman, Outdoor Heritage & Education Committee

Application for Youth Conservation Congress*

2012-2013 School Year

Applicants Name _____

Date _____

Address _____

Phone _____

High School _____

County _____

Grade Level (2012-2013) School Year) _____

Explain why you want to be a delegate to the Wisconsin Youth Conservation Congress?

Involvement in outdoor related activities:

Outdoor organizations to which you belong (list):

I am the legal parent/guardian of _____. I will authorize him/her to take part in all appropriate activities connected with the Wisconsin Conservation Congress.

Printed Name _____

Signature _____

Phone Number _____

* **NOTE:** Applicants for the Youth Conservation Congress must be related to a present Conservation Congress Delegate who is willing to act as their mentor and be responsible for the minor participating as a youth delegate (i.e. Parent, grandparent, uncle, aunt, etc.).

I, _____, from _____ County, am the Conservation Congress Delegate related to the above mentioned youth, who will also act as their mentor, and be responsible for them during all WCC functions. My phone number is _____.

Submit your application either by mail or e-mail to:

Kevin Marquette, Chair

Outdoor Heritage & Education Committee

916 E. Randall St.

Shawano, WI 54166

Phone: (715)526-5147

E-mail: lab1@shawanonet.net





DELEGATES AFIELD



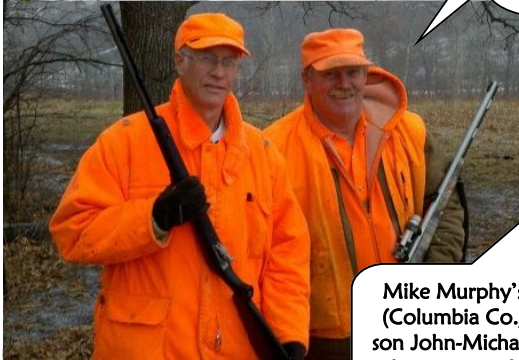
Doug Seidl (Outagamie Co., on left) assisting with a Trout Unlimited Green Bay trout stream restoration project on the North Branch of the Oconto River.



Josh Hennlich (Milwaukee Co.) with a drake canvasback.



Retired Command Sergeant Bill Yingst (Pepin Co.) takes an airboat ride on the Chippewa River with granddaughter Mckenna, and friend Kali.



Mike Murphy's (Columbia Co.) son John-Michael after a successful waterfowl hunt.



Dale Maas (Dodge Co.) with son Nick Maas (left) and grandchildren Natalie & Hunter Maas (front) after a successful morning of fishing out of Sturgeon Bay.



Scott Bestul (Langlade Co.) and friend Jeff VanDoom with bobcat harvested in the Ladysmith area.



Brad Hasheider (Sauk Co.) with son, Tyler, scored a double whammy during the turkey season.



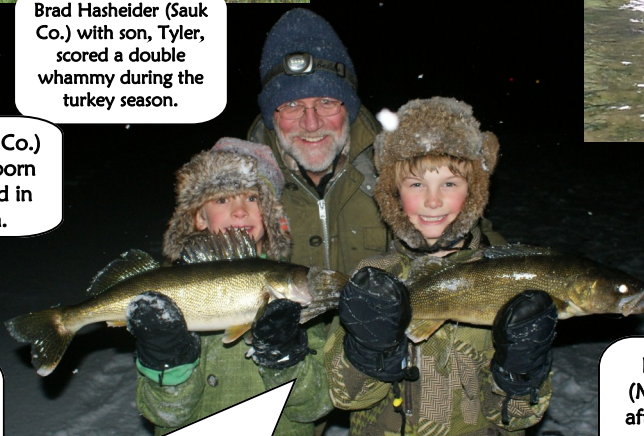
Randy Voegeli (Green Co.) spotted this sandhill crane chick in his neck of the woods.



Darold Brathol (Pierce Co.) kayaking the lower Kinnickinnic River in Pierce County.



Great Blue Heron trying to blend in along the lower Kinnickinnic River (photo courtesy of Darold Brathol).



Grandpa Lee Wiesner (Bayfield Co.) walleye fishing with grandsons in Bayfield County.



Rick Moncher (Milwaukee Co.) after another successful hunt at Camp Moncher in Jackson County.



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78 YEARS OF CONSERVATION!

2012 WCC Executive Committee

Rob Bohmann, Chair
Larry Bonde, Vice-Chair
Lee Fahrney, Secretary

PO Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707

WCC Liaison

Kari Lee-Zimmermann
Phone: 608-261-0767
E-mail: Sharon.Fandel@Wisconsin.gov

WCC Coordinator

Sharon Gericke Fandel
Phone: 608-261-0767
E-mail: Sharon.Fandel@Wisconsin.gov

*"Let us work to together to
properly manage and wisely use
our natural resources..."*
- Prolog of the Congress Creed

Wisconsin Conservation Congress — 2012 Fall Calendar

This calendar does not have all of the Committee meetings listed (only those that were finalized at the time of print).

Please visit the WCC website for up-to-date listings of all WCC meetings and events — go to dnr.wi.gov and search for "Conservation Congress."

AUGUST

- 1-13 Fall District Meetings
- 11 Outdoor Heritage & Education Committee—Milladore
- 13 Strategic Planning Committee Mtg—Milladore
- 18 Fur Harvest Committee Mtg—Milladore
- 18 Big Game Committee Mtg—Plover
- 22 Hunting With Dogs Committee Mtg—Conference Call

- 25 Air, Waste & Water Committee Mtg—Milladore
- 25 Legislative Committee Mtg—Stevens Point

SEPTEMBER

- 8 Strategic Planning Committee Mtg—Stevens Point
- 22 Endangered Resources & Law Enforcement Cmte Mtg—Stevens Point
- 25/26 NRB Meeting—Eau Claire
- 29 Trout Committee Mtg—Milladore

OCTOBER

- 1 Strategic Planning Committee Mtg—Milladore
- 13 Private & Public Land Access Committee Mtg—Location TBD
- 13 Rules & Resolutions Committee Mtg—Stevens Point
- 23/24 NRB Meeting—Madison

NOVEMBER

- 10 Warm Water Committee Mtg—Milladore

DECEMBER

- 8 Outreach Committee Mtg—Stevens Point
- 11/12 NRB Meeting—Madison

JANUARY 2013

- 4 Executive Council—Location TBD
- 22/23 NRB Meeting—Madison

APRIL 2013

- 9 Annual DNR/WCC Spring Hearings

MAY 2013

- 9 Executive Council Mtg—Eau Claire
- 10/11 WCC Annual Convention—Eau Claire